Grounds for providing reservations

†2846. SHRIDILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether caste is the only ground for providing reservation to socially weaker sections or there are other grounds too;

(b) if the caste is the only.ground for reservation, the names of the followers of religions where the caste-system is prevalent:

(c) whether any differences have been noticed between Hindu's caste system (Hindu Varna Vyavastha) and caste system (Varna Vyavastha) prevalent in other religions; and

(d) if not, the details for not doing away with the reservation system. after conversion to other religions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Article 16(4) of the Constitution enables the State to provide reservation in appointments and posts in favour of any backwards class of citizens which in the opinion of State is not adequately represented in the services.

Only the persons belonging to the religions of Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism get the benefit of reservation as Scheduled Castes. However, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes may belong to any religion.

District Rehabilitation Centres

2847. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up District Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the function and activities of such centres?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.